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The book is crowded with illustrations of the relations between man and geography, and we know of no source from which teachers can draw more edifying and interesting material for the class room relating to those phases of geography with which this little volume deals. Professor Kirchhoff is not only a storehouse of facts, but his gift of imagination cements the material he uses into a finished scientific and literary product, which is as interesting as it is instructive to all intelligent readers.

Die Städte geographisch betrachtet. Von Professor Dr. Kurt Hassert. vi and 137 pp., 21 Illustrations. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1907. (Price, M. 1.)

Dr. Hassert, Professor of Geography at the Commercial High School in Cologne, is widely known as an authority on economic geography. This book is an expansion of four lectures delivered in October, 1906, on the development of cities and the influences that shape and characterize them. It treats of the causes that lead to aggregations of people in towns and cities, the height above the sea level of such settlements (most cities being built on plains or lowlands), the industrial and commercial types of cities, relation of cities to the land trade routes, the growth of cities and development of the metropolis, relation between urban population and the number of dwellings, the separation of the residence and business quarters, building material, street names, etc. The book is the outcome of a close study of urban development in all times. It abounds with curious as well as pregnant information and is to be commended as a bit of geographical literature that is very readable and also contributes to our general knowledge of one of the greatest of social factors.

Les Lacs Alpins Suisses. Étude Chimique et Physique. Par le Dr. Félix-Ernest Bourcart. Georg et Cie., Genève, 1906.

Thirty-three small alpine lakes, ranging in altitude from 643 meters (Amsoldingen, Bern) to 2,388 m. (Schotten, Grisons) are in this volume illustrated by beautiful photographic vignettes, described according to their physical and chemical properties.

The author says—"Basing upon the nature of the basin of supply (alimentation) in comparison with the waters of each lake, we succeed in grouping them so as to obtain a rational classification of all alpine lakes." Although the lakes examined by the author are not "all" those of the Swiss Alps, we abide by the author's classification into two main groups, one, where the chemical basis of the soil is silicious, and the other, where it is calcareous. Of the former he enumerates 15, of the latter 18. These two groups are again subdivided according to the size of the supply basins.

The researches seem to have been made with the greatest possible care and precision. The physical conditions were studied *in situ,* the surrounding topography carefully observed and noted, the nature of the soil to a certain distance above the lake and the composition of rocks determined; the temperature of the air, of the water, at surface and greatest depth, its transparency and colour noted, and the same researches were practiced in a measure in regard to supply basins, affluents, and springs, in cases where the latter were feeders of the lake. The depths observed vary between m. 4 and m. 83.6, and it is to be regretted that in the case of the latter the temperature at the bottom could not be ascertained. In the case of Lake Silvaplana the difference of temperature between surface and bottom (m. 77) was 5 degrees centigrade.